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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 30 PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT

SUMMARY: NEW DELHI'S PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S SECOND FULL DAY IN INDIA WAS EXTENSIVE AND LARGELY POSITIVE. THE HEADLINES PUT THE MAIN FOCUS ON THE US-INDIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS CARRIED IN A NUMBER OF PAPERS. SEVERAL EDITORPQLS HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION. MOST DELHI PAPERS DREW HEAVILY ON AN OCTOBER 29 GOI BACKGROUND BRIEFING WHICH PURPORTED TO DESCRIBE THE TWO SIDES' EXCHANGES ON US ARMS POLICY IN THE SUBCONTINENT, INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY, AND OTHER MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECOND FULL DAY OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, WHICH CONCLUDED WITH THE RELEASE OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE TREATMENT IN ALL NEW DELHI ENGLISH
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LANGUAGE AND VERNACULAR PAPERS PUBLISHED OCTOBER 30.

THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE SETTING OUT THE AGREED INDO-AMERICAN POLICY ON THE SUBCONTINENT WAS FEATURED IN MOST OF THE HEADLINES: "OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN SOUTH ASIA OPPOSED"; "US AGREES WITH INDIA ON SIMLA APPROACH TO PEACE"; "INDIA, US AGAINST OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN SUBCONTINENT"; "BIG POWERS MUST LEAVE SUBCONTINENT ALONE". THE COMMUNIST DAILY PATRIOT OFFERED A POSITIVE HEADLINE BUT ON A SUBJECT WHICH GENERALLY DREW SECOND BILLING--"US HAILS DELHI STANCE ON USE OF N-KNOWHOW". THE ONLY SOUR NOTE WAS STRUCK BY THE JANA SANGH PAPER MOTHERLAND WHICH HEADLINED ITS LEAD STORY, "QUESTION OF NOT SUPPLYING ARMS TO PINDI EVADED."

2. BESIDES PROVIDING DETAILED PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNIQUE, THE DELHI PRESS FEATURED THE PRIME MINISTER'S INVITATION TO PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT INDIA NEXT YEAR, AS WELL AS THE SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 30 MEETINGS WITH THE INDIAN FINANCE, AGRICULTURE AND DEFENCE MINISTERS.

3. THE ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDITORIAL APPEARING OCTOBER 30 WHICH PUT THE ENTIRE VISIT IN PERSPECTIVE WAS CARRIED IN THE TIMES OF INDIA UNDER A HEADLINE "NEW AMERICAN APPROACH". ANALYZING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS, THE TIMES WROTE THAT THE SECRETARY "OUTLINED A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK WHICH HOLDS OUT THE PROMISE OF REASONABLY AMICABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." IF THE SECRETARY "REALLY MEANS WHAT HE SAYS" ABOUT THE OBSOLESCENCE OF CONDOMINIUM, HEGEMONY AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND THE ANACHRONISM OF BLOC DIPLOMACY, HE HAS BROUGHT "THE BROAD US APPROACH... CLOSER TO THE ESTABLISHED INDIAN VIEWPOINT." THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY SPELLED OUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS US APPROACH FOR AMERICA'S SOUTH ASIAN POLICY WAS SEEN AS EVIDENCE THAT THE SECRETARY DID NOT SHIRK THE CHALLENGE. "ALL ANIUVTLIT WILL BE A MOST WELCOME DEVELOPMENT IF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS SHOW THAT THE US HAS AT LAST LAID (TO REST) THE GHOST OF THE LATE MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES."

4. EDITORIALS IN SEVERAL OF THE OTHER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE INDO-US JOINT UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMISSION. THE INDIAN EXPRESS WELCOMED IT AS "THE FIRST CONCRETE RESULT OF THE VISIT" AND "THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO NUAGE AN INSTITUTION TO PROMOTE AND OVERSEE MUTUAL INTERESTS IN SOME KEY AREAS OF INDO-US RELATIONS..." A STATESMAN EDITORIAL WAS ALSO POSITIVE, BUT THE MOTHERLAND, UNDER A HEADLINE "ITT HERE I COME", CAUTIONED THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE DOMINATED BY THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR AND "NEW DELHI SHOULD TAKE CARE TO ENSURE THAT DR.

KISSINGER'S SKULLDUGGERY IN CHILE IS NOT REPEATED IN THESE PARTS."

5. THE PRINCIPAL DELHI PAPERS (EXCEPT THE HINDUSTAN TIMES) DREW HEAVILY ON A BACKGROUND BRIEFING, PROBABLY PROVIDED BY A MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL (OR OFFICIALS) INVOLVED IN THE VISIT. CITING "INFORMED SOURCES" OR INDIAN "OFFICIALS", THE STORIES REPORT THAT DURING THE VISIT THE US SIDE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "ITS PAST ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT WAS WRONG."HXHE SOURCES GO ON TO SAY THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE INDIAN SIDE'S SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT US ARMS POLICY IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, THE US LEFT THE IMPRESSION ON THE INDIAN SIDE THAT ITS ASSURANCE ABOUT NOT LIFTING ITS ARMS EMBARGO "COULD BE BELIEVED ONLY WHEN IMPLEMENTED." "TIME ALONG COULD PROVE WHETHER THE USA IMPLEMENTED THIS REASSURANCE IN LETTER AND SPIRIT...." (TIMES OF INDIA). THUS, THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN WAS "THE ONLY POINT ON WHICH THE INDIAN SIDE CONTINUED TO HAVE RESERVATIONS...." ACCORDING TO A NATIONAL HERALD REPORT, APPARENTLY BASED ON THE SAME BACKGROUNDER, IT WAS MADE CLEAR DURING THE VISIT BY THE GOI THAT "IF THE USA SUPPLIED ARMS TO PAKISTAN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, EVEN ON A MODEST SCALE, IT WOULD AMOUNT TO GOING BACK ON THE ASSURANCE AND WOULD NOT ONLY AFFECT INDO-US RELATIONS BUT ALSO CAUSE A SETBACK TO THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT.⁶

6. ON NUCLEAR POLICY, THE ABOVE BACKGROUND SOURCE IS CITED AS INDICATING THAT THE US WELCOMED THE GOI'S ASSURANCES AS TO THE PEACEFUL PURPOSE OF ITS PROGRAM. THE SOURCE DISPUTED REPORTS APPEARING ABROAD THAT THE SECRETARY APPLIED PRESSURE ON THE GOI ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS BUT AT THE SAME TIME CONFIRMED THAT INDIA CONCEDED TO THE

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US SIDE THAT PROLIFERATION OF EXPLOSION TECHNOLOGY COULD BE AMATTER OF CONCERN.

7. ACCORDING TO THE SAME "INFORMED SOURCES", THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE RESULT INDICATED: THE US-PRC SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE'S LANGUAGE ON KASHMIR, RAISED BY INDIAN SIDE AND EXPLAINED BY THE US SIDE AS A REFERENCE MADE IN A "DIFFERENT SITUATION AND AT A DIFFERENT TIME" (PATRIOT); DIEGO GARCIA, A CONCERN ALLEGEDLY RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN (WHO "REITERATED THE INDIAN PEOPLE'S COMPLETE OPPOSITION" TO BIG-POWER RIVALRY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN) AND "NOTED" BY THE US SIDE (TIMES OF INDIA); DEBT RESCHEDULING, ON WHICH THE INDIAN "SOURCES SAID THAT THERE WAS BETTER APPRECIATION OF INDIA'S STAND" (TIMES OF INDIA); AND FOOD ASSISTANCE, ON WHICH IT WAS

SAID THAT INDIA HAS MADE KNOWN ITS PREFERENCE FOR LONG-
TERM CREDIT WITH EASY REPAYMENTS (INDIAN EXPRESS).
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